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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/172,261	10/14/1998	HIROHIKO ITO	35.G2265	9043

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EXAMINER	
WORKU, NEGUSSIE	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2624	11

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

P 42.10. C1 C2

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/172,261	Applicant(s) ITO, HIROHIKO	
	Examiner Negussie Worku	Art Unit 2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *09 July 2002* .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☒ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Negussie Worku

ME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ .
4) ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). *11* .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. The finality of the last office action has been withdrawn. Applicant's arguments with respect to claim 1, 7 and 13, have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection and the amendments have been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2 The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-21, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farrell et al. (USP 5,422,743) in view of Asai et al (USP 6,088,550).

With regard to claim 1, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output method, see (2 of fig 2) in which image data is input from at least one image input section (6 of fig 3), and the input image data is output to at least one image output section, (8 of fig 3) comprising the steps of: dividing image processing of one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) to be performed into an image input job in which image data is input from the image input section (24 of fig 3) and into an image output job in which image data is output to the image output section; (87 of

fig 3), managing execution of the image input job and output job independently (image input control 50 and image output control 60 of fig 3 control independently).

Farrell et al. does not teach controlling after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

However, Asai et al. teaches controlling execution via (processor 40 of fig 1) for controlling an input job ("IR" image read or input section of fig 1) and execution of the image output job ("processor 40" of fig 1, a means for output in print job). Both jobs are performed independently, see col.7, line 30-35.

Since Farrell and Asai are both directed to the same field of endeavor namely image input output apparatus for controlling of the execution of image input section and output section independently, the purpose of initiating the second job after the completion of the first input job and before terminating of the first output job is suggested by Asai.

Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made, to have modified the input-output job control method of Farrell by the teaching of Asai in a way that the input and output controller 54 of fig 3, of Farrell independently controlling the second job after the completion of the first input job and before terminating of the first output job as suggested by Asai.

The motivation and the purpose for doing so is to improve the speed of input and output job of the image forming system and to increase the overall production rate of the apparatus.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Asai et al. And Farrell to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Farrell et al. teaches an image input (6 of fig 2) and output method (2 of fig 3) wherein image data is input and stored in an image storage section (56 of fig 3) for the image input job, and image data is read from the image storage section (56 of fig 3) and output in the image output job.

With regard to claim 3, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output method (6 & 8 of fig 3) wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, (20 of fig 3) image data developed from code data expressing an image, see (col.5, lines 40) and image data received from an external unit, (24 of fig 3) is input in the image input job.

With regard to claim 4, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output (6 & 8 of fig 2) method wherein image data is output to at least one of a printer section (8 of fig 3) printing an image and a transmission section (60 of fig 3)

transmitting an image in the image output job, (87 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 5, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output (6 & 8 of fig 3) method further comprising the step of creating a plurality of management tables (5a-5d of fig 7) which hold information used for managing the image input job and the image output job, (5a -5d of fig 7), see (col.6, lines 5- 25)

With regard to claim 6, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output method (fig 2) wherein the execution of the image input job and that of the image output (6 & 8 of fig 3) job are independently controlled in said controlling step according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (5a-5d of fig 7).

With regard to claim 7, Farrell teaches an image input and output apparatus (2 of fig 2) comprising: input means (24 of fig 3) for inputting image data from at least one image input section; (6 of fig 3) output means (87 of fig 3) for outputting Image data to at least one image output section; (8 of fig 3) obtaining means for obtaining image-processing parameters, which regulate image processing of one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) to be performed; and controlling means (7 of fig 3) for controlling an input of image data, (fig 3) and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter obtained by, said obtaining means; (24 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means, (7 of fig 3) divides the image processing of the one image processing unit (25 of fig 3) expressed by the image processing parameters, see (Col.4, lines 23-25) obtained by the obtaining means (24 of fig 3) into an image input job in which image

data is input by said image input means (6 of fig 3) and an image of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; (60 of fig 3) and after a preceding image input job is finished starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

Farrell et al. does not teach controlling after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

However, Asai et al. teaches controlling execution via (processor 40 of fig 1) for controlling an input job ("IR" image read or input section of fig 1) and execution of the image output job ("PRT" of fig 1, a means for output in print job). Both jobs are performed independently, see col.7, line 30-35.

Since Farrel and Asai are both directed to the same field of endeavor namely image input output apparatus for controlling of the execution of image input section and output section independently, the purpose of initiating the second job after the completion of the first input job and before terminating of the first output job is suggested by Asai.

Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made, to have modified the input-output job control method of Farrell by the teaching of Asai in a way that the input and output controller 54 of fig 3, of Farrell independently controlling the second job after the completion of the first input

job and before terminating of the first output job or after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished. The motivation and the purpose for doing so is to improve the speed of input and output job of the copy machine and to increase the overall production rate of the apparatus.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Asai et al. And Farrell to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

With regard to claim 8, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 3), further comprising storage means (56 of fig 3) for storing image data, see (col.4, line 60) wherein the image data input by said input means (24 of fig 3) is stored into said image storage means (56 of fig 3) in the image input job, and the image data read from said image storage means (56 of fig 3) is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) in the image output job.

With regard to claim 9, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output Apparatus (fig 3) wherein at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit (56 of fig 3) is input by said input means (24 of fig 3) in the image input job.

With regard to claim 10, Farrell et al. teaches an image input and output

apparatus (fig 3) to wherein image data is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) to at least one of a printer section (95 of fig 3) printing an image and a transmission sections transmitting (60 of fig 3) an image.

With regard to claim 11, Farrell teaches an image input (6 of fig 3) and output apparatus (8 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) comprises a plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5d) which holds Information used for managing the image-input job and the image output job.

With regard to claim 12, Farrell teaches an image input and output apparatus (fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) independently controls the execution of the image input job (50 of fig 3) and that of the image output job (60 of fig 3) according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5d).

With regard to claim 13, Farrell teaches an image-input means (6 of fig 3) an image processing system (54 of fig 3) in which image data input by at least one image-input means (24 of fig 3) is output by at least one image output means, (87 of fig 3) comprising: obtaining means (6 of fig 3) for obtaining image Processing parameters, see (col.4, lines 23-25) which regulate image Processing of one image processing unit (54 of fig 3) to be performed; and

controlling means (7 of fig 3), for controlling an input of image data and an output of image data according to the image processing parameter, see (col.4, line 2325) obtained by said obtaining means; (24 of fig 3) wherein said controlling means: (7 of fig 3) divides the image processing of the one image Processing unit (54 of fig 3) expressed by the image processing parameters obtained by the obtaining means (24 of fig 3) into an image input job in which The image-input means (24 o fig 3) and an image output input image data Job in which image data is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) controls execution of the image input job and execution of the image output job independently; (7 of fig 3), see (col.4, lines 40-45) and after a preceding image input job is finished, starts a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished, see (120 of fig 3). Farrell et al. does not teach controlling after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is finished.

However, Asai et al. teaches controlling execution via (processor 40 of fig 1) for controlling an input job ("IR" image read or input section of fig 1) and execution of the image output job ("PRT" of fig 1, a means for output in print job). Both jobs are performed independently, see col.7, line 30-35.

Since Farrel and Asai are both directed to the same field of endeavor namely image input output apparatus for controlling of the execution of image input section and

output section independently, the purpose of initiating the second job after the completion of the first input job and before terminating of the first output job is suggested by Asai.

Therefore, It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at time the invention was made, to have modified the input-output job control method of Farrell by the teaching of Asai in a way that the input and output controller 54 of fig 3, of Farrell independently controlling the second job after the completion of the first input job and before terminating of the first output job or after a preceding image input job is finished, starting a subsequent image input job before the image output job corresponding to the preceding image input job is ffinished. Themotivation and the purpose for doing so is to improve the speed of input and output job of the copy machine and to increase the overall production rate of the apparatus

Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine AAsaiet al. And Farrell to obtain the invention as specified in claim 13.

With regard to claim 14, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3) further comprising storage means (56 of fig 3) for storing image data, wherein the image data input by said input image data read from said image storage means (56 o fig 3) is output by said output means (8 of fig 3) in the image output job.

With regard to claim 15, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3) wherein the image input means (24 of fig 3) inputs at least one of image data obtained by reading an original image, (24 of fig 3) image data developed from code data expressing an image, and image data received from an external unit, (56 of fig 3).

With regard to claim 16, Farrell et al. an image processing system (fig 3) according to wherein the image output means (8 of fig 3) performs at least one of image printing (95 of fig 3) according to image data and image-data transmission.

With regard to claim 17, Farrell teaches an image processing system (fig 3) Wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) comprises a plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5b) which hold information used for managing the image-input job and the image output job (6 & 8 fig 3).

With regard to claim 18, Farrell teaches an image processing system (fig 3) wherein said controlling means (7 of fig 3) independently controls the execution of the image input job and that of the image output job, see col.4, Lines 40-45) according to the information held in the plurality of management tables, see (fig 5a-5b).

With respect to claims 19, 20 and 21, Farrell et al. teaches an image input (scanner 6 of fig 3) and output (printer 8 of fig 3) method wherein said interface section (interface

52 connection to computer 54) connects to a computer (52 of fig 2) or a facsimile apparatus.

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from Examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is (703) 305 5441.

The Examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9 am -6 pm if attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's Supervisor, David Moore, can be reached on (703) 308-7452.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314 and any inquiry of general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-9000.

JEROME GRANT II
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Negussie Worku
08/19/02